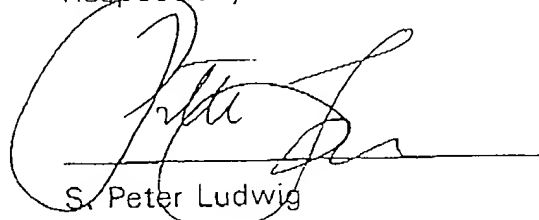


In view of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Dated: August 14, 2000

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "St. Peter Ludwig", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

St. Peter Ludwig

Reg. No. 25,351

Attorney for Applicant(s)

DARBY & DARBY P.C.  
805 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
212-527-7700